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16 FEB-1948

Mr. Joseph A. Clorety, Jr.
National Secretary, American Veterans Committee
1200 Eye Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Clorety:

Reference is made to your letter of 12 February 1948, regarding personnel procurement policy of this Agency.

We are happy to inform you that personnel of this Agency are employed on the basis of their individual experience, capabilities, character, and unquestioned loyalty to the United States of America. Their connection with any service, social, or fraternal organization is of no import unless the organization is known to be subversive in character as listed by the Office of the Attorney General.

We are appreciative of your statement of policy and explanation of the platform of the AVC.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

R. M. HILLENKOTTER
Rear Admiral, USN
Director of Central
Intelligence

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Deputy Director
Exec for I&S
Central Records -w/ original ltr.

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AMERICAN VETERANS COMMITTEE, (AVC)
Incorporated

To Achieve a More Democratic and Prosperous America and a
More Stable World

National Offices — 1200 Eye Street, N.W., Washington 1, D.C.
REpublic 8269

12 February 1948

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Vice-Chairman
NATIONAL PLANNING
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Oren Root, Jr.
Michael Straight
Hugh Will

Lincoln W. Lauterstein
National Counsel

Vernon Eagle
National Treasurer

Joseph A. Clorety, Jr.
National Secretary

Rear Admiral R. H. Hillenkoetter
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
2430 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Several members of our organization have alleged that certain supervisory officials of the Central Intelligence Agency have maintained that AVC is a Communist-dominated organization and that they cannot, therefore, permit membership in AVC to their employees. This certainly cannot be official Central Intelligence Agency policy. However, since the question has disturbed several of our members, I should appreciate a statement from the Central Intelligence Agency on the matter.

Inasmuch as your information in regard to AVC may not be complete I should like to set forth the following facts, particularly as relating to the charge that we are a Communist-dominated organization.

The AVC has made its anti-Communist position clear and beyond question. The preamble to our constitution, which all prospective members are required to endorse before becoming members, states as our purposes: "To preserve the Constitution of the United States; to insure the rights of free speech, free press, free worship, free assembly, and free elections; to provide thorough social and economic security to all; to maintain full production and full employment in our country under a system of free enterprise"

As long ago as November, 1946, the National Planning Committee of AVC approved a detailed, specific statement of opposition to Communism from which I should like to quote several sentences:

"As veterans who believe firmly in the democratic ideals which we have endorsed, we reject the notion that the Communist Party possesses the key to the magic formula whereby the betterment of human welfare can be achieved. We spurn the insincere cooperation of a minority group unquestioningly obeying leaders whose objectives, including a totalitarian dictatorship on the extreme left, are irreconcilable with our own"

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Clifford C. Dancer
National Field Secretary
Robert L. Carter
Director of Veterans Affairs
Andrew L. Newman
Director of Public Relations
and Publications
Richard L. Hawkins
Managing Editor of AVC
Bulletin
Samuel Unger
Business Manager

"We oppose the entrance into our ranks of members of the Communist Party and we shall strive to prevent them, when and if, by subterfuge or deceit, they gain such entrance, from attempting to use AVC as a sounding-board for their own perverse philosophy."

The AVC platform as adopted at both our national conventions to date has been specifically opposed to the Communist Party line on many issues. As a matter of fact, AVC has been particularly active on two major issues to which the Communists are ardently opposed, namely we have supported the Baruch plan for international control of atomic energy and the European Recovery Program.

At our last national convention the membership of our organization announced and for all the candor of Communist influence within the organization, by electing a slate of national officers whose independent progressivism—including specific opposition to Communism—is unquestioned.

AVC is a liberal organization which is proud to number among its members such outstanding liberals as Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., Oren Root, Jr. and Robert R. Nathan. Our patriotism includes firm belief in the best elements of the American liberal tradition and we deeply resent unfounded charges linking us with the American Communist Party, which we consider an avowed enemy of the principles of democracy and freedom to which we are dedicated.

Doubtless the supervisory officials responsible for these repeated allegations by our members are unaware of the above facts and that AVC has been accredited by the Veterans Administration; that it has as its only honorary member the Most Reverend Bernard J. Sheil, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, who has addressed both of our national conventions; and that it enjoys the expressed confidence of such militant opponents of Communism as Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Philip Murray, Walter Reuther, Nelson Rockefeller, and many others of comparable prominence. The ignorance of such officials of your agency explains but does not excuse their slanderous attacks on AVC.

I hope that I shall hear from you shortly on this important matter so we can reassure our members as to the unfounded nature of the reports regarding the position of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Joseph A. Clorey, Jr.
Joseph A. Clorey, Jr.
National Secretary

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